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## Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Tuesday January 25, 2011, Indiana Farm Bureau

### Welcome & Introductions

Participants:

American Chestnut Foundation: Bruce Wakeland

American Tree Farm System: Bob Burke

Carmel Urban Forestry Committee: Cheryl Gettelfinger

DNR Entomology: Phil Marshall

DNR Executive Office: John Davis

DNR Fish & Wildlife: Gary Langell

DNR Forestry: Dan Ernst, Chris Gonso, Scott Haulton, Brenda Huter, Jack Seifert, Zack Smith, Phil Wagner, Mike Seidl

DNR Nature Preserves: John Bacone

Farm Bureau: Warren Baird

Hoosier Backcountry Horsemen: Susan Miller, Connie Tarplee

Hoosier Environmental Council: Tim Maloney

Hoosier Heartland RC&D: Mike Warner

Hoosier National Forest: Melany Glossa, Judi Perez

Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters (IACF): Mike Warner

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Ray Chattin

Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA): Brian Richwine

Indiana Forest & Woodland Owners Association (IFWOA): Bob Schaible, Robert Woodling, Liz Jackson

Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association (IHLA): Ray Moistner

Indiana Land Protection Alliance: Ted Harris

Indiana Society American Foresters (ISAF): Brian Gandy

Indiana Walnut Council: Liz Jackson

Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF): Doug Allman, Barbara Simpson

Nation Wild Turkey Federation: Randy Showalter, Bud Dennemann

Private Forest Owner: Tom Hougham

Purdue University Extension: Lenny Farlee

Purdue University Forestry & Natural Resources: (PU FNR) Brian MacGowan, Lindsey Purcell

Purdue University Hardwood Tree Improvement Regeneration Center: Charles Michler, Lenny Farlee

The Nature Conservancy: Joe Tutterow

Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area: Tom Tremain

USDA, Farm Service Agency: Michelle Howell

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Ken Collins

USDA, US Forest Service, NE Area: Dennis McDougall

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## **Forest Legacy Program, *Brenda Huter***

The Forest Legacy Program is a US Forest Service Program that provides grants to states to purchase in fee or purchase conservation easements on important working forests within state designated Forest Legacy Areas. Indiana may submit 3 projects up to \$10,000,000 each year to the US Forest Service. Projects from across the nation are ranked. The ranked projects are then submitted for federal funding.

Discover Woods Project (Discover Woods & Happy Hollow Tract) was submitted for 2011 funding. The project made the President's List with funding for the Happy Hollow Tract, but the federal budget has not been released. Projects for 2012 funding were due at the end of October. The Discover Woods Project was resubmitted.

## **2011 State & Private Forestry Competitive Grant Applications, *Chris Gonso***

PowerPoint presentation *FY2011 S&P Grants.ppt*

FY2011 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals

The Division of Forestry will be submitting 7 Project Grants to the US Forest Service. The US Forest Service will rank the projects based on national & regional priorities. The grants are 50:50 match. Groups may submit letters of support for a particular by noon on January 31, 2011.

### **1) Indiana Strategic Forestland Conservation Program**

Proposal Leads: Phil Wagner & Chris Gonso

Total project: \$1,130,000

Federal funding: \$565,000

This project focuses on the largest remaining forest patch in Indiana, Brown County Hills/Shawnee Hills. In this area, it will increase parcels under management, stewardship planning, sustainable certification, landowner training and enrollment in the Classified Forest & Wildlands Program. It will contain a high intensity outreach component and further target private forestlands for enrollment in conservation programs.

### **2) Expanding, Updating and Delivering Forestry Best Management Practices in Indiana**

Proposal Leaders: Duane McCoy & Chris Gonso

Total project: \$785,833

Federal funding: \$392,917

This project will fund the cooperative effort to update and expand Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for silviculture, urban areas, historic/cultural sites, threatened and endangered species, water quality and invasive species and develop

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technology and distribution channels to ensure rapid dissemination and application throughout the state and in priority forest areas.

### **3) Indiana Map (Terrestrial) Invasives Initiative**

Proposal Leaders: Phil Marshall & Zack Smith

Total project: \$1,200,000

Federal funding: \$600,000

This project will survey lands for the presence or absence of invasive species (plants, insects, pathogens), and where found, document the extent of the infestation. This information will be consolidated in a web based GIS database and increase public awareness around known infestations, spread risks, etc. and will aid in ensuring that dollars spent to combat or slow the spread are the most efficiently spent.

### **4) Landowner Deer Impact Assessment Tool**

Proposal Leads: Allen Pursell & Scott Haulton

Total project: \$265,000

Federal funding: \$132,500

This project is a collaborative effort to produce tools that will allow forest managers and landowners to determine if the property level deer population is too high to manage for oak regeneration or reforestation on a given tract of land and promote forest health and diversity. Information gathered result in the development of a deer indicator map that reveals levels of deer damage to forest regeneration on private lands statewide.

### **5) Ecologic Restoration & Accelerated Reintroduction of Species**

Project Leads: Charles Michler & Phil O'Connor

Total project: \$500,000

Federal funding: \$250,000

This project will accelerate the reintroduction of American chestnut into ecologically appropriate areas. The project will also provide for accelerated reintroduction of Butternut, develop restorative practice and build ecologic restoration capacity in Indiana.

### **6) Retaining Working Forests through Generational Transfer**

Project Leads: Liz Jackson & Chris Gonso

Total project: \$165,000

Federal funding: \$82,500

This project provides a multi-faceted and multi-resource effort to increase the knowledge of private landowners and planning professionals regarding succession planning with the goal of encouraging retention of land within the family and reducing the parcelization of those properties.

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## **7) Statewide Strategies at a Parcel Level**

Proposal Leads: Chris Gonso & Brett Martin

Total project: \$195,000

Federal funding: \$97,500

This project will enable enhanced conservation and stewardship of forest resources by providing natural resource professionals with a database of forest landowners that can be used in a variety of manners to facilitate landscape scale forest conservation and stewardship according to statewide priorities.

## **National & State Hardwood Strategies, *Ray Moistner***

PowerPoint presentation

At the national level the hardwood industry is working to get a check off. The check off would collect money from sawmills, concentrations yards, flooring manufacturing, and hardwood/plywood manufacturing. There is the potential to raise \$15 million per year without greatly impacting the price of hardwood lumber. The money would then be used to market American hardwoods. Similar things have been done by other industries such as the dairy industry's "Got milk?" or the pork industry "Pork, the other white meat." On Feb. 9, 2011, Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association (IHLA) will be hosting the first industry wide presentation on the details of the Hardwood Check-off Program.

## **Seeking Resolution on Modifications to Strategy 5, *Jack Seifert***

The Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee added the following Actions Steps to Indiana Statewide Forest Strategy 5:

Develop/expand effort to reliably label Indiana grown and manufactured (sustainable chain of custody) primary and secondary forest products to promote local use, demand, and branding associations with high quality products, possibly in conjunction with other Indiana agricultural products.

Develop an outreach program with specific focus on the benefits of Indiana forest products industry and its output that fosters a positive perception of Indiana's hardwood industry.

Promote the unique qualities of sustainably harvested Indiana hardwoods at international trade shows, on trade missions, or via "exchange" programs designed to increase exports and build long-term relationships. Also develop, translate and offer international brochures marketing Indiana's export products, species, sustainability and third-party certification to be used at trade shows, on trade missions or in other promotions.

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Provide incentives for the production and manufacture of certified sustainable wood products to Indiana businesses.

## **Subcommittee Reports & Discussions**

### **Action Step 1.3 Subcommittee Report**

Chair: Brian Gandy ([gandybrian@hotmail.com](mailto:gandybrian@hotmail.com))

IFSCC members: John Bacone (Cloyce Hedges), Cheryl Gettlefinger, Tim Maloney, Charles Michler and Division of Forestry staff member Zach Smith.

Action Step 1.3 - Increase economic incentives to keep land in forest, restore forests, slow parcelization and consolidate small tracts, with emphasis on and additional incentives for large tract forests. This action step includes targeted tax incentives, cost-share and conservation payments, and economic development for forest services and products other than lumber (see Strategy 5). Also, work with various commissions, counties and others to develop demand for lower quality hardwoods present in improvement cuts and urban wood "waste." This action step could require State or Federal level legal or regulatory changes.

The first meeting consisted of brainstorming:

- Tax incentives, agricultural assessment, excess acres, classified forest & wildlands programs impact on land use
- Cost share programs: need to promote, concern about the future, contacting legislation
- Conservation easements, land trusts
- Timber sales, maintaining wood markets so landowners have a reason to hold forest
- Check off funds
- Land prices – The cost of farm land is high. It puts pressure to convert forest for production.
- Forest banking – provide a steadier source of income to landowner
- Forest mitigation - currently county by county
- Biomass industry: to provide a market for low quality material, thinning
- Wood pellet furnaces for small scale heating

No action steps determined yet. Next meeting February or March

### **Action Step 1.10 Subcommittee Report**

Chair: Charles Michler ([michler@purdue.edu](mailto:michler@purdue.edu))

IFSCC members: Mike Seidl, Ray Moistner

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Action Step 1.10 - Develop a unique Agricultural Commodity Check Off program for timber to provide funds for management incentives, research/education, and product promotion. Timber Check Off program will improve the quality of hardwoods grown in Indiana, expand existing markets, increase demand and create new uses and markets.

Committee decided to wait until after meeting Feb. 9 IHLA meeting to get the details on the national check off program and look for ways to pull money back to Indiana.

## **Action Step 2.6 Subcommittee Report**

Chair: Tim Maloney ([tmaloney@hecweb.org](mailto:tmaloney@hecweb.org))

IFSCC members: John Bacone (Cloyce Hedge), Ken Collins, Brian Gandy, Judi Perez, and Duane McCoy (IDNR- Forestry).

Action Step 2.6 - Encourage forestation along stream and river corridors while using existing tools to prioritize placement of forested riparian buffers: watershed tool, Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), Water and Environmental Programs (WEP).

The committee discussed the scope of committee. The group will start by gathering information on riparian protection programs and projects and develop a database. The committee may also consider Action Step 2.7. The group is also looking to see who else should be invited to committee: surveyors, IDEM, land trusts, etc.

The next planned step is to have a briefing from NRCS and IDEM on their programs and field trip to look at riparian projects & talking with project landowners.

## **Action Steps 3.1 & 3.3 Subcommittee Report – No Report Presented**

Chair: Bill Hoover ([whoover@purdue.edu](mailto:whoover@purdue.edu))

IFSCC: Lindsey Purcell, Ron Rathfon, Mike Saunders, Tom Tremain and Division of Forestry staff member Jeff Settle. The following IDNR staff will also participate in conjunction with their areas of expertise: Alicia Ariens, Dan Ernst, Scott Haulton, Phil Marshall and Duane McCoy.

Action Step 3.1 - Expand BMPs to include invasive species, silviculture, and specialty situations like urban forests and threatened and endangered species.

Action Step 3.3 - Promote and encourage the increased use of Forestry BMPs.

## **Action Step 4.3 Subcommittee Report**

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Chair: Bob Burke ([kingwalnut@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kingwalnut@sbcglobal.net))

IFSCC members: Tim Maloney, Chris Gonso.

Action Step 4.3 - Use existing databases and directories to reach landowners, forest industry professionals, community decision makers and policy makers in general with special effort directed to groups and individuals involved in land-use change decision making. Demonstrate advantages of forested corridors to local officials.

Committee has not yet met and is seeking additional members.

## **Action Step 4.8 Subcommittee**

Chair: Robert Woodling ([robertwoodling@netscape.net](mailto:robertwoodling@netscape.net))

IFSCC members: Brian MacGowan, Travis Stoelting, Connie Tarplee, Joe Tutterow and Division of Forestry staff member Sam Carman.

Action Step 4.8 - Enhance and expand training and education of private landowners with emphasis on field days, managing for woodland health and “conserving the family woodlands”. Training should be planned in advance and advertised extensively for example in the Woodland Steward. This action step should include the use and expansion of the Indiana Demonstration Forest program. Written resources should be easily obtainable and presented in an easily understood format (e.g., Landowners Guide to Managing Family Woodlands).

Committee brainstormed on education and came up the idea for an online forestry education registration database to help determine what educational methods are most effective. Event planners could use the site to register their program. Program participants would then be solicited for feedback on the program. The group needs to determine where to store data. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 22, 2011.

## **Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE), *Scott Haulton***

PowerPoint presentation

The Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment is a 100 year, landscape scale experimental study of forest management and its impacts. The project has been going for 6 years (started 2005, first field year 2006) on Morgan-Monroe / Yellowwood State Forest.

There are 9 study areas scattered across the forest. 3 treatments will be done on each area:  
1)Even aged management - clearcut & 3 stage shelterwood cuts  
2)Uneven aged management - group and single tree selection  
3)Controls: no harvest. Every 20 year a new set of harvests and openings will be created.

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Preliminary results from the first few years of research are being to be released:

Bats: (Indiana State University-2006-09) Eight species of bats were captured. The bat community did not change across years. More activity was detected after the treatment harvests. All but one species were detected in canopy gaps the most, followed by forest edges, corridors, and then interiors.

Rattlesnakes & box turtles: (Purdue University, 2007-10) There were no indications that timber harvests are affecting the home range or habitat use. Turtles were found in same opening year round.

Small mammals: (Purdue University, 2007-09) Pre-treatment populations similar across all the treatment areas.

Forest salamanders: (Purdue University, 2007-09) 14,000 salamanders (9 species) were captured. The eastern redback salamander made up 64% of captures. Pre & post treatment data were similar.

Wood boring and longhorn beetles: (Purdue University, 2006-10)

104 species of beetles were capture from 2006-09. In 2010 the number of species increased to 120. An increase in the abundance and species richness post harvest was observed. "Pest" species were more abundant after harvest.

Forest moths: (Drake University, 2007 & 2009) Species richness was significantly lower in harvest areas than in control areas.

Cerulean Warbler: (Ball State University, 2007-2009) There was no change observed in abundance or territory size pre to post harvest. Warblers do not seem to be avoiding the harvested areas.

Breeding song birds: (Indiana University, 2006-2010) An increase in individuals and species after harvest both types were observed.

Other studies being conducted:

- Deer Herbivory Impacts
- Mast Production and Removal
- Barred and Screech Owl Survey
- Non-breeding Season Bird Survey
- Ruffed Grouse Drumming Survey

Project website: <http://www.heeforeststudy.org>

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## **Coordinating Management of Forest Invasive Systems *Phil Marshall***

PowerPoint presentation

Indiana Invasive Species Council (IISC) legislation was signed on April 20, 2009. The purpose of the council is to improve the manner in which invasive species are addressed in Indiana. The council is made up of 11 members (6 designated in the legislation and 5 appointed by the governor). All the positions have been identified with the exception of the industry appointee. The council meets quarterly. The council has several subcommittees: Invasive Plant Advisory Council, Indiana Invasive Aquatic Plant Working Group, and Indiana Exotic Forest Pest Advisory Committee, IISC Conference Working Group, Communications and Website Working Group, Data Collection and Management Working Group

The current priorities for IISC are the following: 1) Fill the open industry position on the Council. 2) Explore funding opportunities. 3) Communicate the roles and responsibilities of the Council to stakeholders and the public. 4) Report on Council activities to the Natural Resource Study Committee by June, 2011. 5) Develop a long-term strategic plan. 6) Review existing weed laws in Indiana. 7) Develop an education and outreach advisory committee.

Invasive Plant Advisory Committee has two main projects: creating an invasive plant list by evaluating species and developing best management practices (BMP).

Invasive Aquatic Plant Working Group is working on evaluations of species in order to develop a white/black of aquatic plants in trade.

Indiana Exotic Forest Pest Advisory Committee has been dealing with gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, *Ralstonia solanacearum* (a green house disease), brown marmorated stink bug, sudden oak death, Asian longhorn beetle (not here yet, monitoring), hemlock woolly adelgid (not here yet); light brown apple moth (not in IN, will feed on oak); laurel wilt (kills sassafras, spicebush; no in Indiana); gold spotted oak Borer and oak splendor beetle; thousand canker disease (not in Indiana).

IISC Website is up and running [www.entm.purdue.edu//iisc/](http://www.entm.purdue.edu//iisc/)

## **Ecology of Forest Riparian Ecosystems, *Gary Langell***

PowerPoint presentation

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A riparian area is that area of land located immediately adjacent to streams, lakes, or other surface waters. Riparian forest buffers maintain many important physical, biological, and ecological functions and provide important social benefits. Riparian forest buffers improve and maintain water quality by helping reduce sediment and nutrient loading. The loss of riparian forest buffers can result in a loss of habitat for many species of plants and animals, both on land and in the stream itself.

## **Governor's Muscatatuck & Wabash Initiatives, John Davis**

PowerPoint presentation

The governor has identified two conservation areas:

- Muscatatuck Bottoms Conservation Area -Jackson, Washington & Scott Counties
- Wabash River / Sugar Creek Conservation Area –Vigo, Parke, and Vermillion Counties where

The primary objective in the two areas is to buffer the rivers by protecting and reestablishing the riparian corridors by dealing with willing landowners. Condemnation of property is not an option for the projects. Funding is coming from a variety of sources and groups: Wetland Reserve Program, IDNR Lifetime License Funds, US Fish & Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy.

There have been several public meeting and several more meetings are scheduled. DNR has not been directly contacting individual landowners.

## **Seeking Resolution on White Tailed Deer Management**

The Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee approved the following position statement:

Current populations of white-tailed deer greatly exceed historic levels and threaten natural communities throughout the state. Where white-tailed deer are not managed in balance with native plants and animals, ecological integrity diminishes, and in cases where valuable timber regeneration is affected, economic impacts can be severe. To maintain the integrity of Indiana's forests, current population levels of white-tailed deer must be significantly reduced.

Issues and Background:

- Indiana Statewide Forest Strategy #4, Action Step 10 states that the committee will:  
*Stress the importance of deer herd management in maintaining a healthy understory of native plants and trees. The effective management of the deer herd is of great importance relative to diverse forest tree regeneration, diverse*

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*forest floor vegetation, and control of invasive species invasion. Deer management should be based on biological principals and long-term ecosystem health.*

- It is well documented by peer-reviewed scientific journals that overabundant deer can and do have a detrimental effect on understory plant species, tree regeneration, habitat for other species, and contribution to the spread of tick-borne diseases and invasive species.
- Many foresters and landowners have observed through field observation the difficulty of establishing tree seedlings due to excessive browse damage by deer. Significant damage to oak seedlings under natural forest conditions is also frequently evident.
- Because deer overabundance is a threat to the integrity and productivity of Indiana's forests the problem could hypothetically impact the forest certification status of both public and private lands.
- In the last 30 years, the deer harvest in Indiana has grown from near 20,000 in 1980 to a record 132,000 in 2009. While the rate of growth has slowed over the past several years, the harvest has continued to increase modestly. There are no firm figures on deer populations other than harvest indicators.
- White-tailed deer are primarily managed in Indiana through traditional public. Hunting is the only practical and efficient method of controlling the deer population and is consistent with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. It is documented that biodiversity of both plants and animals and other ecological components are impacted by deer at densities will below those typically maintained for public hunting programs.
- Wild deer are to be managed for the benefit of the resource and the people of Indiana, not primarily to satisfy hunters as is often misunderstood.

*The [Division of Fish and Wildlife] shall... Organize and pursue a program of research and management of wild animals that will serve the best interest of the resources and the people of Indiana". (Indiana Code Title 14, Article 22, Chapter 2, Section 3)*

## Recommendations

- Site-specific forest habitat assessments are needed to determine the impact of white-tailed deer on both public and private forestlands. A coordinated effort of monitoring programs should be put in place to track long-term impacts.
- Landowners, policymakers, and the general public need to be actively informed of the subtle, long-term decline in forest productivity and health that is resulting from deer overabundance.
- In many places, white-tailed deer populations need to be reduced to the point of economic and ecosystem balance through regulatory revision, specifically the promotion of antlerless deer hunting.

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- The forest community needs to support the processing of deer, access to land for hunting, and antlerless deer hunting.
- Education of hunters regarding the best practices for the use of hunting stands and other hunting paraphernalia must be conducted in order to reduce damage caused to trees by such equipment.

## **Roundtable Reports**

ATFS: In February IHLA will have the Tree Farm Breakfast where Logger of the Year and Tree Farmer of the Year awards will be presented. At the HASTI meeting in March, the Indiana Tree Farm Committee will present the Outstanding Outdoor Lab award to the winning school. The Tree Farm Landowner's Clinic will be in Wabash, Indiana this year.

American Chestnut Foundation: The first test chestnut planting is occurring this spring. Using grant money from Duke Energy and HTIRC, the American Chestnut Foundation is looking to have a full time employee. North West weed management area is getting started.

IFWOA: Feb 1<sup>st</sup> is Conservation Day at the Statehouse. There is one "How to Successfully Harvest Timber for Landowners" meeting left – Greencastle, 2/24. Monroe County commissioners will be holding public meetings on Strategic Plan for Monroe County. Issues in the plan include no disturbance on slopes greater than 15 degree slope including as a limit for logging. Plan also limits the subdivision of property.

Backcountry Horsemen: The organization has "Leave No Trace" educators available.

IFA: Looking to reach out regarding forest issues.

IWF: Barb Simpson is the new director.

Purdue FNR: Research is being done to look at the impact of biomass on wildlife. The land use sustainability project works with local decisions makers. In the past year, there has been an increase in using online webinars.

IN Association of SWCD: Senate Bill 375 Sustainable Natural Resources

Purdue University Hardwood Tree Improvement Regeneration Center: A forest pathologist position is being added. 8 Week landowner forestry clinic begins on Feb. 22 in Tippecanoe.

IWTF: Turkey license plates are coming; 50% of the revenue will go to DNR for land purchases.

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IACF: Plant a Million Project will reach its goal this year. Most of the plantings have been riparian zones. The West Central Weed Management Areas is up and running.

ISAF: HASTI to attract new foresters

TNC: A forester has been hired to work in the Brown County Hills Project Forest Bank.

NRSC: Second round of EQIP funding

Division of Forestry: The State Forests are certified by SFI & FSC. Properties are contacting out TSI work. Research projects being conducted on State Forests. We are beginning to see a transition in our staff as staff begins to retire. The Division hopes to be able to refill positions.

FSA: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program has expanded 11 watersheds and is slated to enroll 26, 250 acres in 65 counties. Practices include hardwood tree plantings, bottomland timber and riparian buffers. Currently there are 840 active CREP contacts with 6242 total acres in Indiana. The first general Conservation Reserve Program sign –up since 2006 ended with land approved in 78 Indiana counties. Another general sign-up is planned for this spring. FSA is currently working on a proposal for additional State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) acres go to the FSA National Office. The original 13,100 acres in SAFE have been allocated statewide.

Next meeting scheduled for May 17, 2011.

Meeting notes by Brenda Huter (IDNR – Division of Forestry).